

Arlington Council on Aging

Meeting Minutes March, 16, 2017

Present: Mara Klein Collins, Jim Munsey, Paul Raia, Noreen Murphy, Jill Greenlee, Rick Fenton, Ann Fitzgerald, and Marge Vanderhill.

Associate member present: Karen Nichols and Bob Tosi

Board of Selectmen representative: Joe Curro

I. Call to order: The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was called to order by Mara Klein Collins at 6:03PM on March 16, 2017, at 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA.

II. Minutes of February 16, 2017, moved to approve by Jill, seconded by Noreen

III. Report of the Chair:

A. Selectman Liaison Meeting re: staffing. As discussed at our last meeting I contacted Joseph Curro, Selectman and met with him and Ann Fitzgerald to discuss the open nurse position on Friday, Feb. 24. Ann and I advised him of the opening, and how this would be an opportune time to make the position full time. Ann also discussed the benefits to the town and emergency services in having a geriatric nurse in town. As Joe explained it depended where we were in the approval process; he asked if Susan had presented to FinComm. I said no, that Christine was presenting but was unsure of the date. His advice was to request an increase in nurse hours and decrease the difference in the social work hours, presenting the reasoning. I said I would pass this onto Susan. Susan later advised the decision is to stay with the budget as is and to collect more data to support additional hours in the FY19 budget.

B. We also discussed the status re: The Friends of the COA. We shared the concerns we have, and the timing of the request for the road race historically happening now. Joe was going to discuss this with Adam for an update.

C. Thank you notes. I have sent thank you notes to the Garden Club for the planning and eventual planting of the garden in the front of the building and Board of Assessors for supporting the four warrant articles helping seniors and veterans on behalf of the Board.

IV. Executive Directors Report:

A. ED wishes to thank the COA Board under the leadership of Chair, Mara Klein Collins who is the driving force that sparks the advocacy we need to move the agenda forward. As we navigate through the budget season, I could not be more proud or grateful for the efforts that have led to a strong possibility of town meeting approval to increase social work hours by 14 hours per week. The momentum created to highlight the staffing structure of the COA to meet the needs of the growth in the age cohort we serve is critical in our next step in restoring the COA Nurse position to full time. The anticipated increase in SW hours this year and a

hopeful increase in hours in the COA Nurse position next year will enable the COA to reach more seniors and to add to the organizations capability of hosting clinical interns.

B. Secured Anita Albright to assist in developing a plan for the AARP Age Friendly Community initiative. First meeting set for March 23, from 1-3pm.

C. Janet Lipkin has joined our office as a contractual employee to provide clinical supervision to the 3 nurses with us this semester. Her role is solely for the clinical supervision.

D. The COA Nurse position has closed and we are now beginning to schedule interviews. The first round of interviews will take place the week of March 13.

E. ED spent Friday 3/3 at Merrimack College interviewing 7 possible candidates for the Community Engagement Fellow. We will know more about a possible "match" in a few weeks.

F. ED wrote/received a micro grant of \$2,000 from Mt. Auburn. These funds will be used to build capacity in the community – specifically the Age Friendly Community initiative. Arlington Civics Day is slated for Saturday, March 18 from 10-2 in the town hall. ED and intern Hannah Plasker will be present. Any board member wishes to participate may do so. All are welcome!

G. Plans for the Volunteer Luncheon are well underway. The Formula Grant through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs provides for some funding of this event. The ED will use the COA Gift account for any excess for this event, as a previous grantor is not able to assist at this time.

H. COA and Food Pantry are working together bringing 50 Arlington seniors' free groceries once a month. The food is coming from the Boston Food Bank.

I. There is no updated information regarding the Friends of Arlington COA.

J. Omissions not intentional and if new items arise prior to the March 16th meeting, they will be addressed at that time.

V. New Business

A. Susan is working on alternative funding sources. Health and Human Services Charitable Corp will accept donations or COA gift fund.

B. Searching for an organization to raise funds will be on the April COA agenda. Assisted Living organizations could be approached as a possible source of revenue.

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.